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Title: Need to take steps to exempt textile sector from GST.

SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA (KURNOOL): Hon. Speaker Madam, I would like to invite the attention of the august House to the fact that GST has raised heartburn among textile manufacturers, traders and also those engaged in the handloom sector. The entire industry is paralyzed as they resorted to strikes and *bandhs*. Textiles sector makes a significant contribution to our GDP and employs millions of people. People dependent on handloom sector will suffer as the Government has imposed GST on handloom products at par with other textile products. Being unable to survive on this industry, many people are diverting to other activities and converting themselves as labours. The textiles industry provides direct employment to 45 million individuals and generates 60 million indirect jobs. I strongly appeal the hon. Finance Minister to come to the rescue of the handloom weavers by including the handloom products, especially the products reserved under the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985 in the list of zero per cent GST.

13.00 hours

The Government has fixed a 5 per cent GST rate on cotton fibre, yarn and fabric against the current prevailing rate of "nil". Silk and jute have been kept under "nil" category under the GST. Man-made or synthetic fibre yarn will attract 18 per cent GST.

While all apparels would attract 12 per cent GST against the past levy of 6-7 per cent, apparels below worth Rs 1,000 would attract 5 per cent GST; 18 per cent GST for man-made yarn, while fabric made from that will attract 5 per cent and hence full input credit will not be utilised.

I request the Government to consider exempting the textile sector from GST.